(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation were received by the Government. After examination, Action Taken Notes on these recommendations were sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The recommendations could not be accepted by the Government in *toto*.

Hike in prices of petroleum products

†749. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently hiked the prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider the price hike keeping in view the large scale resentment among the masses?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Taking into consideration the prevalent high international oil prices, the oil marketing companies (OMCs) sought to increase the consumer prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG and PDS kerosene. However, if the full impact of high international oil prices was passed entirely on to the consumers, it would have meant too much of a burden on them. Therefore, the Government decided to share the burden by reducing excise duties on petrol, diesel and LPG effective from 16.6.2004. The burden of high international oil prices was also shared by OMCs by not passing on the full impact of international oil prices in the increase of the domestic consumer prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG effective 16.6.2004. The retail selling prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG, in New Delhi were increased by Rs. 2/litre, Rs. 1/litre and Rs. 20/cylinder respectively. Further, OMCs did not increase the selling prices of PDS kerosene. There is no proposal to reconsider the increase in prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG.

Use of Kerosene Oil for Adulteration

750. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.